

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add new claims 57 through 81. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A controller for use with a fabric grooming device comprising:

an interactive user interface with one or more input selectors and one or more output indicators,

wherein said interface is operatively connected to a microprocessor.

Claim 2 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more input selectors have an image or symbol associated therewith for identifying the function and/or operation corresponding thereto.

Claim 3 (Original): The controller of claim 2, wherein at least one of said one or more input selectors is a touch screen panel.

Claim 4 (Original): The controller of claim 2, wherein at least one of said one or more input selectors is an LCD panel.

Claim 5 (Original): The controller of claim 2, wherein at least one of said one or more input selectors is an LED panel.

Claim 6 (Original): The controller of claim 2, wherein said one or more input selectors are selected from a group consisting of a button, a switch, a roller, and a knob.

Claim 7 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein each of said one or more output indicators have an image or symbol for identifying the function and/or operation corresponding thereto.

Claim 8 (Original): The controller of claim 7, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators is a display panel.

Claim 9 (Original): The controller of claim 7, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators is an LCD panel.

Claim 10 (Original): The controller of claim 7, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators is an LED panel.

Claim 11 (Original): The controller of claim 7, wherein said one or more output indicators are selected from a group consisting of a button, a switch, a roller, and a knob.

Claim 12 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein said one or more output indicators are a visual indicator.

Claim 13 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein said one or more output indicators are an audible indicator.

Claim 14 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein said one or more output indicators are a tactile indicator.

Claim 15 (Original): The controller of claim 1, wherein said microprocessor is operatively connected to a sound generator, one or more sensors, and/or a heater.

Claim 16 (Original): The controller of claim 15, wherein said microprocessor is also operatively connected to a timer.

Claim 17 (Original): The controller of claim 16, wherein said microprocessor is operatively connected to a vibrator.

Claim 18 (Original): A controller for a fabric grooming device comprising:

- a digital interface;

- a microprocessor operatively connected with said interface;

wherein said interface and/or said microprocessor are operatively connected to any of a variety of operational features of said fabric grooming device to facilitate interactive operational control thereof.

Claim 19 (Original): A controller operatively associated with a fabric grooming device comprising:

- a digital interface for providing interactive communication between a user and said grooming device,

- wherein said interface is operatively connected with a microprocessor and one or more sensors.

Claim 20 (Original): A user interface associated with a control for a fabric grooming device, the user interface comprising:

one or more input selectors for inputting user instruction;

one or more output indicators for outputting operational information; and

a microprocessor operatively connected to said input selectors and said output selectors.

Claim 21 (Original): A user interface associated with a control for a fabric grooming device, the user interface comprising:

one or more input selectors for inputting user instruction;

one or more output indicators for outputting operational information; and

a microprocessor operatively connected to said input selectors and said output selectors.

Claim 22 (Original): An interface operatively associated with a fabric grooming device, comprising:

one or more input selectors; and

one or more output indicators.

Claim 23 (Original): A method of operation for a fabric grooming device, comprising the steps of:

providing a controller operatively connected with said grooming device, said controller having an interface with one or more input selectors and one or more output indicators;

activating said grooming device by connecting said grooming device to a power source and pressing a predefined input selector for a predefined period of time;

operating said grooming device to groom any of a variety of fabrics;

deactivating said grooming device by pressing said predefined input selector a time and/or disconnecting said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein said interface is not active prior to the activating step.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein said one or more input selectors may be used to select any of a variety of temperature and/or fabric settings at any time during and/or after activation.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25, further comprising a predefined output selector that indicates when the selected temperature and/or fabric setting is reached.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 25, further comprising an audible signal that indicates when the selected temperature and/or fabric setting is reached.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising an impact sensor directly or indirectly automatically deactivates said grooming device when, during operation, said grooming device is dropped.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators indicates the need for action.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein said action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 28, further comprising an audible signal that indicates the need for action.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein said action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein said predefined period of time is less than about 3 seconds.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein said predefined period of time is more than about 3 seconds.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein said at least one auto-off sensor is deactivated.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein said at least one auto-off sensor is an incline sensor.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): The method of claim 23, further comprising a motion sensor that directly or

indirectly automatically deactivates said grooming device when, during operation, the user allows said grooming device to sit in an operative ~~sate~~ state for a predefined period of time.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators indicates the current status of said grooming device and/or the need for user action.

Claim 39 (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to the last temperature and/or fabric setting prior to said deactivation.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 39, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to a default temperature and/or fabric setting.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of claim 40, wherein said user action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 42 (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein said user action is to move said grooming device and/or actuating said one or more input selectors.

Claim 43 (Original): The method of claim 37, further comprising an audible signal that indicates the current status of said grooming device and/or the need for user action.

Claim 44 (Original): The method of claim 43, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to a default temperature and/or fabric setting.

Claim 45 (Original): The method of claim 44, wherein said user action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of claim 43, wherein said user action is to move said grooming device and/or actuating said one or more input selectors.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising an incline sensor that directly or indirectly automatically deactivates said grooming device when, during operation, the user allows said grooming device to sit in an operative state for a predefined relatively extended period of time.

Claim 48 (Original): The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of said one or more output indicators indicate the current status of said grooming device and/or the need for user action.

Claim 49 (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to the last temperature and/or fabric setting prior to said deactivation.

Claim 50 (Original): The method of claim 49, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to a default temperature and/or fabric setting.

Claim 51 (Original): The method of claim 50, wherein said user action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 52 (Original): The method of claim 48, wherein said user action is to move said grooming device and/or actuating said one or more input selectors.

Claim 53 (Original): The method of claim 47, further comprising an audible signal that indicates the current status of said grooming device and/or the need for user action.

Claim 54 (Original): The method of claim 53, wherein said user action reactivates and returns said grooming device to a default temperature and/or fabric setting.

Claim 55 (Original): The method of claim 54, wherein said user action is to disconnect said grooming device from said power source.

Claim 56 (Original): The method of claim 53, wherein said user action is to move said grooming device and/or actuating said one or more input selectors.

Claim 57 (New): An electric clothing iron comprising:

a housing having a handle portion and a base portion;

a heat element adapted to selectively activate to operate at a plurality of different temperatures;

a plate connected to said base and adapted to be heated;

a controller;

an input device connected to said controller for controlling at least one function of the electric clothing iron, said input device for inputting at least one control selection of the electric clothing iron; and

an output device connected to said controller for outputting said at least one control selection.

Claim 58 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said output device is a display screen.

Claim 59 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 58, wherein said display screen is adapted to display a plurality of pre-set heat control settings with each corresponding to a pre-selected operating temperature.

Claim 60 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 59, wherein said input device causes a visually detectable selection indicator to be selectively, visually associated with one or more of said displayed control settings.

Claim 61 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 60, wherein said visually detectable selection

indicator is a visually detectable image on said display screen.

Claim 62 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 61, wherein said input device has a button, whereby said selection indicator is moved from a first control setting to a second control setting by depressing and releasing said button.

Claim 63 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 61, wherein said input device has a first button and a second button, each of said first button and said second button being adapted to move said selection indicator from one control setting to another, each of said first button and said second button moving in a respective direction associated with each of said first button and said second button by depressing and releasing said respective first and second button.

Claim 64 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, further comprising an audible signal device.

Claim 65 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 64, wherein said audible signal device emits an audible signal after said heating element is deactivated for a predetermined period of time.

Claim 66 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said input device and said output device are located on a common plane on said housing.

Claim 67 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 66, wherein said input device has at least one button.

Claim 68 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said input device and said output device are located on said handle portion.

Claim 69 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 68, wherein said input device has at least one button.

Claim 70 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said input device and said output device are located on a top of said handle portion.

Claim 71 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 70, wherein said input device has a button.

Claim 72 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said input device is manipulated by a thumb.

Claim 73 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 72, wherein said input device has a button.

Claim 74 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 57, wherein said input device is manipulated while said handle portion is gripped without releasing said grip.

Claim 75 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 58, wherein said display screen is adapted to display

a plurality of names of types of fabrics with each name corresponding to a predetermined heat control setting corresponding to a pre-selected operating temperature.

Claim 76 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 75, wherein said input device has a visually detectable selection indicator being selectively, visually associated with one or more of said displayed plurality of names.

Claim 77 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 76, wherein said selection indicator is a visually detectable image displayed on said display screen.

Claim 78 (New): An electric clothing iron according to claim 77, wherein said input device has a button, whereby said selection indicator is moved from one of said displayed plurality of names to another by said button.

Claim 79 (New): A method of controlling an electric clothing iron comprising:

connecting the iron to an electric source;

depressing a control button to select a first predetermined heat setting; and

visually indicating said selection of said first heat setting on a display screen on the iron.

Claim 80 (New): A method according to claim 79, further comprising depressing a control button to

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selectively change said predetermined heat setting to a second predetermined heat setting; and

visually indicating said selection of said second heat setting on said display screen.

Claim 81 (New): A method according to claim 80, wherein said display screen is a liquid crystal display screen.